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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS RELATED TO THE US STAND ON HUMAN RIGHTS (22-28 July 1977)

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Chilean President Pinochet's speech earlier this month setting forth an extended timetable for return to civilian rule has evoked widespread discussion, including criticism of the pian's conservatism from within the military regime and suggestions from government officials that the program is flexible. Most politically astute Chileans seem to view Pinochet's speech as a positive move; they believ: the President has opened doors that he will be unable to close. Debate over Chile's political future appears to be gathering momentum, and this is likely to lead to increased pressure for modification of restrictive security practices. Government spokesmen have tried to portray the President's speech as whrelated to international opinion or foreign pressures, but Santiago probably hopes that it has now reached a turning point in relations with the US.

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